



For immediate release
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Missouri's Unemployment Rate Fell Sharply in August

Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate plummeted by six-tenths of a percentage point to 4.7 percent, but non-farm payroll employment grew only modestly in August, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

"There has been considerable variation in the state's unemployment rate in recent months, which is a common trend when the labor market is in flux such as in a recession," said Joseph L. Driskill, DED director. "We are pleased to see the unemployment rate decrease to about the same level as it was a year ago. But we still are not seeing significant gains in employment, which would indicate a recovery of economic conditions in Missouri. We will have to continue to wait and see what the numbers reflect in the next few months before we can determine the true state of Missouri's economy."

The August unemployment rate is a little lower than average for the period since the beginning of the recession in March 2001 and it is about the same rate as a year ago (4.8 percent in August 2001). It is also a full percentage point below the nation's current unemployment rate of 5.7 percent. The not-seasonally-adjusted rate in August was 4.8 percent, also six-tenths of a point lower than a month ago.

Non-farm payroll employment increased by 4,500 jobs in August, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Typically, employment drifts down a little in August, so the increase that occurred this year translated into a somewhat larger seasonally adjusted increase. Unadjusted data, however, show only 1,700 jobs more than in July.

The private service-producing sector reported fewer jobs in August. The big decrease was in private educational services, which probably reflects the drop-off that occurs before fall semesters resume. Employment in this industry will likely bounce back in September.

The big employment change was in manufacturing, which increased by 5,000 jobs, not seasonally adjusted. Most of this was the result of automobile plants returning to production following model changeover layoffs. There were some other small increases in manufacturing industries, mostly in the durable goods sector. The government employment estimate was also up in August, as both state and local governments showed increases, particularly at public schools and colleges.

Over the past year, non-farm payrolls have lost a net 47,100 jobs, or 1.7 percent. Manufacturing employment is down by 10,700 jobs. Electrical and electronic equipment and machinery experienced the largest drops -- 3,500 and 1,400 jobs, respectively. Construction employment is down by 5,000 jobs over the year, despite some improvement in recent months. Wholesale trade industries have lost 7,900 jobs over the year. Retail trade employment losses have been smaller: 2,200 jobs, about half in food stores. Other significant losses include 7,500 jobs in business services; 3,500 jobs in securities and insurance brokers, largely as a result of the declining stock market; and 5,600 state government jobs, which is a reflection of budget problems.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (AUGUST 2002), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JUNE AND JULY 2002), AND YEAR AGO (AUGUST 2001)

| | AUG 2002 | JUL 2002 | JUN 2002 | AUG 2001 | | AUG 2002 | JUL 2002 | JUN 2002 | AUG 2001 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| U.S. (not seasonally adjusted) | 5.7 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 4.9 | | | | | |
| MISSOURI | 4.8 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 4.9 | Atchison | 3.3 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| ST. LOUIS MSA | 5.3 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 5.2 | Audrain | 4.5 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.0 |
| Franklin | 5.2 | 8.2 | 6.0 | 5.1 | Barton | 3.6 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 3.5 |
| Jefferson | 4.8 | 7.0 | 5.6 | 4.7 | Bates | 6.9 | 7.3 | 7.9 | 6.0 |
| Lincoln | 4.7 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 4.8 | Benton | 5.9 | 6.7 | 6.1 | 6.7 |
| St. Charles | 3.5 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 3.4 | Caldwell | 7.1 | 8.4 | 7.2 | 5.7 |
| St. Louis County | 4.3 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.2 | Carroll | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.5 |
| Warren | 4.1 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4.6 | Cedar | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 5.7 |
| St. Louis City | 9.2 | 9.5 | 10.1 | 9.3 | Chariton | 7.7 | 8.9 | 7.0 | 8.9 |
| KANSAS CITY MSA | 5.0 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 4.6 | Clark | 6.0 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 5.9 |
| Cass | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 3.9 | Cooper | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 5.5 |
| Clay | 3.7 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.1 | Crawford | 5.6 | 7.0 | 6.6 | 5.9 |
| Clinton | 5.0 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 3.8 | Dade | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.9 | 4.7 |
| Jackson | 5.7 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 5.4 | Dallas | 7.4 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 6.9 |
| Lafayette | 4.5 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 4.9 | Daviess | 5.1 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 4.8 |
| Platte | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 2.9 | DeKalb | 4.6 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 3.7 |
| Ray | 4.5 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 5.1 | Dent | 5.7 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 8.9 |
| SPRINGFIELD MSA | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.6 | Douglas | 9.8 | 10.7 | 11.4 | 11.5 |
| Christian | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.1 | Dunklin | 6.4 | 7.6 | 7.9 | 7.8 |
| Greene | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.3 | Gasconade | 4.9 | 7.8 | 5.7 | 5.0 |
| Webster | 5.0 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 4.8 | Gentry | 3.7 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 3.8 |
| JOPLIN MSA | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.0 | Grundy | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 4.2 |
| Jasper | 4.8 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 4.1 | Harrison | 4.2 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 2.4 |
| Newton | 6.5 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.9 | Henry | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| COLUMBIA MSA | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.0 | Hickory | 7.5 | 8.3 | 7.9 | 7.7 |
| Boone | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.0 | Holt | 3.7 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 3.8 |
| ST. JOSEPH MSA | 4.9 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 5.5 | Howard | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 6.3 |
| Andrew | 4.0 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 4.7 | Iron | 7.6 | 8.2 | 8.8 | 7.7 |
| Buchanan | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.9 | 5.7 | Johnson | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 3.6 |
| ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA | 2.9 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.8 | Knox | 2.9 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| Adair | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.6 | Laclede | 5.0 | 5.8 | 6.8 | 6.4 |
| Schuyler | 4.4 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 5.2 | Lewis | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA | 4.8 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 5.7 | Linn | 11.0 | 12.4 | 9.2 | 11.9 |
| Butler | 4.4 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.6 | Livingston | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.1 |
| Carter | 4.9 | 8.7 | 8.0 | 5.1 | McDonald | 6.1 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.0 |
| Ripley | 5.9 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 6.2 | Macon | 6.3 | 7.8 | 6.7 | 9.2 |
| CAMDEN-MILLER LMA | 4.2 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 4.3 | Madison | 7.3 | 9.5 | 9.8 | 7.6 |
| Camden | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 4.2 | Mercer | 3.6 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 2.9 |
| Miller | 4.6 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 4.5 | Monroe | 6.2 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA | 4.8 | 5.5 | 5.9 | 5.6 | Montgomery | 4.8 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 6.4 |
| Bollinger | 5.7 | 6.4 | 7.6 | 4.9 | Morgan | 5.7 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 5.9 |
| Cape Girardeau | 3.5 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.3 | Nodaway | 1.8 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| Mississippi | 6.3 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 8.8 | Ozark | 4.6 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 4.9 |
| New Madrid | 7.6 | 10.4 | 9.6 | 8.1 | Pemiscot | 8.9 | 10.5 | 10.9 | 9.7 |
| Scott | 5.3 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 6.1 | Perry | 2.9 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 2.9 |
| COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA | 3.7 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.1 | Pettis | 5.4 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.4 |
| Callaway | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.0 | Pike | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 6.9 |
| Cole | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.8 | Polk | 4.4 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 4.5 |
| Moniteau | 4.4 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 4.3 | Pulaski | 4.1 | 4.8 | 5.3 | 5.7 |
| Osage | 5.6 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.0 | Putnam | 3.6 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 4.5 |
| HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 4.9 | Randolph | 6.6 | 7.6 | 6.4 | 7.4 |
| Howell | 5.0 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.9 | Reynolds | 8.5 | 8.7 | 9.8 | 7.3 |
| Oregon | 3.9 | 4.6 | 5.5 | 4.6 | St. Clair | 6.0 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 5.7 |
| Shannon | 5.0 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 5.3 | Ste. Genevieve | 4.6 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 4.4 |
| LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA | 4.3 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 4.8 | Saline | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 9.5 |
| Barry | 4.0 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.3 | Scotland | 3.4 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.9 |
| Lawrence | 4.5 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 5.3 | Shelby | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 6.5 |
| MARION-RALLS LMA | 5.1 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 5.3 | Stoddard | 5.3 | 7.4 | 6.7 | 6.8 |
| Marion | 5.0 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 5.3 | Stone | 5.4 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 4.4 |
| Ralls | 5.4 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 5.4 | Sullivan | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.3 |
| PHELPS-MARIES LMA | 3.2 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.0 | Taney | 3.5 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 3.5 |
| Maries | 5.0 | 6.6 | 6.1 | 6.3 | Texas | 5.8 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 7.0 |
| Phelps | 2.8 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.5 | Vernon | 5.6 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 3.8 |
| ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA | 7.0 | 9.2 | 8.5 | 7.1 | Wayne | 10.2 | 11.7 | 11.6 | 11.0 |
| St. Francois | 6.9 | 8.6 | 7.9 | 6.8 | Worth | 3.5 | 6.7 | 7.4 | 4.6 |
| Washington | 7.4 | 10.7 | 10.0 | 8.0 | Wright | 9.0 | 9.0 | 9.4 | 9.8 |

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

NOTE: 2001 DATA FOR SUBSTATE AREAS HAVE BEEN REVISED BUT ARE PROVISIONAL: NOT YET OFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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